

## CLAIMS

1       An egg counter for counting eggs which are conveyed on an egg collection  
conveyer comprising

- 5       a first light emitting element array,  
a second light emitting element array,  
a light receiving element array that is provided between said first and second  
light emitting element arrays, and  
a control means for processing the light reflected on the respective eggs and  
10 received by the light receiving element array,

said first and second light emitting element arrays and said light receiving  
element array being arranged such that the light emitted from the each of the light  
emitting elements in the arrays is reflected on the surface of the egg that is passing just  
under the light receiving element array, and then the reflected light is received by the  
15 light receiving element array,

said the control means being intended to measure the light intensity of the  
reflected infrared light, detect the peak value of the light intensity, and count the egg on  
the basis of the two peak values of the light intensities with respect to first and second  
infrared light emitting element arrays.

20 2.       The egg counter according to claim 1, wherein each of said first and second  
light emitting element arrays comprises a plurality of light emitting elements,  
respectively.

3.       The egg counter according to claim 2, wherein each of said light emitting  
elements comprises an infrared light emitter.

25 4.       The egg counter according to claim 1, wherein said first and second light  
emitting arrays and said light receiving element array are arranged to extend across a  
width of the egg collection conveyer.

5.       The egg counter according to claim 1, wherein said first and second light  
emitting element arrays alternately and sequentially emits the light.

6. The egg counter according to claim 5, wherein said control means counts the egg when two peak values with respect to the reflected light emitted from the first and second light emitting element arrays are continuously detected.